

CROCKETT FARM, BARN  
1056 Fort Casey Road  
Coupeville vicinity  
Island County  
Washington

HABS WA-246-A  
WA-246-A

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### WALTER CROCKETT JR. FARM, BARN

HABS No. WA-246-A

Location: Whidbey Island, Island County, Washington

Present Owner: Paula Spina and Crockett Farm LLC

Present Use: Crockett Barn Event Center

Significance: With the passing of the Donation Land Claim (DLC) Act in 1850, Congress agreed to grant land in the Oregon Territory to American settlers willing to farm it. As a result, settlement of Central Whidbey Island accelerated. Among these early settlers were Colonel Walter Crockett and his family. The Crocketts claimed five DLCs south of Penn Cove and began to farm. Members of the family also held key political roles, including: County Commissioner, Sheriff, and State Representative.

The farm had been owned by three generations of Crocketts before it was purchased by the Armstrong family in the early part of the twentieth century. The Armstrongs farmed the land for half a century before it was divided into smaller residential lots. In 1984, eleven-and-one-half acres were purchased by Robert and Beulah Whitlow who ran a bed and breakfast out of the Crockett house and leased the farm land to local dairy farmers. In 2005 the property was purchased by the current owner, Paula Spina and Crockett Farm LLC. The barn is currently used as an event center.

The barn was built for Colonel Crockett's son, Walter Crockett Jr., by local craftsman, H.B. Lovejoy. The barn was constructed in the Pennsylvania Bank Barn style. The style is typical in Virginia and Missouri, where the Crockett family was from, but unique in Central Whidbey Island. Its foundation of fieldstones is also an uncommon building material in the area.

## I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

### A. Physical History:

1. Date of construction: ca. 1895
2. Original owner: Walter Crockett, Jr.
3. Subsequent owners: The property was inherited by Walter Crockett Jr. after the death of his father in 1869. Walter Jr. passed it to his brother, Samuel, and the ten children of John Crockett upon his death in 1903. The farm passed out of the hands of the Crockett family when it was purchased by Fred and Nina Armstrong in the early decades of the twentieth century. The Armstrongs owned the property for over fifty years, until ca. 1970 when it was purchased by Edgar Schultz and the North Coast Development Company. Robert and Beulah Whitlow owned the land from 1984-2005. The property is now owned by Paula Spina and Crockett Farm LLC.
4. Original plans and construction: The Crockett barn was built as a two-story building of heavy timber construction with a hipped roof. It was designed and constructed as a Pennsylvania Bank barn. Its lower level is accessible from the east and the upper level is accessed from the north and south. It sits on the original 1'-1" wide fieldstone foundation walls.
5. Alterations and additions: In 1990 the barn underwent extensive stabilization by carpenter, Glenn Adams. His work included: removing animals pens, reroofing with cedar shakes, repairing the windows in the barn and louvers in the cupola, rebuilding all six sliding doors, repairing holes in the stone foundation, replacing the damaged or missing siding, laying 2x8 lumber atop upper level floor, and re-staining the barn's exterior. In 2005 the barn was repainted red.

### B. Historical Context:

"From A.D. 1300 until white settlements in the 1850s, Salish villagers occupied Whidbey and Camano Islands. When the whites arrived, four groups of Salish Indians – the Skagit, Snohomish, Kikialos, and Clallam – shared the island."<sup>1</sup> These groups, classified as saltwater or canoe Indians, built three permanent villages along Penn Cove on Whidbey Island. Their lifestyle and settlement patterns relied heavily on salmon, although they also hunted and gathered berries and roots. Along with salmon, their diets consisted of: steelhead, rainbow trout, shellfish, cattail,

---

<sup>1</sup> Richard White, Land Use, Environment, and Social Change: The Shaping of Island County, Washington (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1980), 14.

salmonberries, strawberries, camas, wild carrots, rose hips, bracken ferns, acorns, hazelnuts, crab apples, elk, and deer.<sup>2</sup>

Before white explorers reached the area, the Salish did not cultivate the prairies of Central Whidbey Island, but rather manipulated them to fit their needs. They repeatedly burned the prairie lands and into the surrounding woods. This encouraged the growth of bracken and camas in the prairie, and renewed undergrowth in the woods that became habitat for game animals.<sup>3</sup> The Salish Indians also used the forest wood to build their canoes and villages.<sup>4</sup>

Captain George Vancouver carried out the first effective European exploration of Central Whidbey Island, claiming it for the British Empire on June 4, 1792.<sup>5</sup> In 1833 the Hudson Bay Company explored Whidbey Island in search of game to trap and hunt, and in 1839 the first missionaries reached Whidbey Island.<sup>6</sup> By this time, after contact with sailors, hunters, trappers, and missionaries, the Native populations in the area were devastated by smallpox and syphilis.<sup>7</sup> By the 1850s syphilis was credited with a hundred deaths in the Puget Sound area every year. And in 1852 and 1853 the last great smallpox epidemic to strike the area took the lives of entire villages.<sup>8</sup>

Along with disease, the white explorers and settlers brought potatoes to the area and by 1830 the British at Fort Nisqually recognized potatoes as a staple in the economy and diet of the Salish villages.<sup>9</sup> The potatoes' easy growing cycle and high production brought the Salish Indians to first cultivate the prairies of Central Whidbey.<sup>10</sup> This cultivation was documented and continued by the first American settlers to the area. Within a few years most Native Americans had moved on to the reservation in La Conner, and by 1904 only a few Salish families remained in Central Whidbey Island.<sup>11</sup>

In 1850, the United States Congress passed the Donation Land Claim Act which accelerated settlement of Central Whidbey Island, Washington. Settlers that were compliant with certain conditions<sup>12</sup> were granted 320 acres if single or 640 acres if married. Colonel Isaac Neff Ebey was the first to stake a DLC in Central Whidbey Island. On October 15, 1850, Ebey claimed "640 acres on the rich black loam of the prairie that now bears his name."<sup>13</sup>

In 1851, Ebey's wife, their two sons, and his wife's brother crossed the Oregon Trail with close family friends, the Colonel Walter Crockett family, to join Isaac Ebey on Whidbey Island. Colonel Crockett was born in Shawsville, Virginia in 1786. He served in the War of 1812, was

---

<sup>2</sup> Land Use, 17-18.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 20-21.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 16. "In each village a single row of three to five large cedar houses, together with smaller buildings, faced the water with the forest looming at their backs. Often from 100 to 200 feet long, these buildings normally housed several families who partitioned the interiors into separate living quarters."

<sup>5</sup> A Particular Friend, 11.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 11-13.

<sup>7</sup> Land Use, 26-29.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., 27.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid., 32.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 33.

<sup>11</sup> Mimi Sheridan, *How Coupeville Grew: A Short History of Town Development: Excerpts from the Town of Coupeville's Historic Preservation Plan* (Coupeville, WA: McConnell/Burke, Inc., 1998), 7.

<sup>12</sup> Conditions included: age, sex, nationality, and race, along with the date of arrival in the area, and the agreement to cultivate the land for four years.

<sup>13</sup> A Particular Friend, 19.

elected to the Virginia Legislature for three terms, and served in the Montgomery militia. He married Mary Black Ross and in 1838 moved to Missouri. At the age of sixty-five, Colonel Crockett and Mary traveled to the Oregon Territory with their children and one grandchild:<sup>14</sup> Charles, Susanna H., Hugh, John (and his wife, Ann, and their young son, Samuel), and Walter Jr.<sup>15</sup> After seven months of travel, the Crocketts and Ebey's spent the winter of 1851-52 in Olympia and arrived on Whidbey Island in March 1852. Between 1851-54, nearly thirty Ebey and Crockett family members and friends came to the Pacific Northwest, most commonly to Central Whidbey Island.<sup>16</sup>

Colonel Crockett staked a Donation Land Claim in prairie land overlooking a lake, two miles southeast of Isaac Ebey's claim. Nearby, Samuel, Hugh, and Charles Crockett claimed 640 and 320 acres, respectively.<sup>17</sup> The prairie and lake are currently named after the Crockett family.

Colonel Crockett, Mary, and Walter Jr. built their first house, a small log structure, in June 1852.<sup>18</sup> Soon after, the Kineth<sup>19</sup> and Smith families came to Central Whidbey and settled on a nearby prairie north of the Crocketts and south of Penn Cove.<sup>20</sup> Colonel Ebey's wife, Rebecca, wrote in her diary about the farming activities on the three prairies. The families worked together to clear land and plant cabbage in early June. They hoed potatoes through June and July, and in late August, Colonel Ebey, John Kineth, and Hugh Crockett plowed ground in preparation for wheat. According to the diary, September was spent plowing and digging potatoes and hauling and chopping wood for the upcoming winter.<sup>21</sup>

In 1853, Colonel Crockett recorded that the wheat he'd grown was worth \$4.00 per bushel. He also harvested onions (worth \$6.00 per bushel), potatoes (worth \$2.50 per bushel), turnips, and cabbage that year.<sup>22</sup> On October 15, 1853, Colonel Crockett wrote a letter home to relatives in Virginia explaining the agricultural situation on Whidbey.

“We have harvested our first crop of wheat in this country and think it a very good one for rough, raw land. We think our crop will yield twenty bushels per

---

<sup>14</sup> By this time, the Crockett's eldest son, Samuel Black Crockett, had been in the Pacific Northwest for seven years. His letters home, along with Colonel Ebey's, were a great influence in motivating other family members to move west. Gail E.H. and Michael Evans-Hatch, Historic Resources Study: Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve (Seattle, WA: National Park Service, 2005), 67, 69, 75; A Particular Friend, 26.

<sup>15</sup> The Crockett's sixth child, Walter Crockett, Jr. (born 1833), is not enumerated as part of the Crockett/Ebey wagon party in Historic Resource Study. However, in A Particular Friend, it is explained that, “Colonel Crockett held for Walter [Jr.] a claim which was transferred to him when he became of age, upon the condition that he should remain with his parents and care for them in their old age.” A Particular Friend, 30.

<sup>16</sup> A Particular Friend, 20; Historic Resource Study, 75-76.

<sup>17</sup> John Crockett claimed 640 acres directly east of Ebey's claim. A Particular Friend, 18.

<sup>18</sup> Historic Resource Study, 95.

<sup>19</sup> The Kineth name is also seen spelled “Kinneth”. In, Historic Resources Study: Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve, authors Gail E.H. and Michael Evans-Hatch opted to spell the name with two N's, citing early maps of Penn Cove and signed writings of Jane. However, the name is found with both spellings in an 1859 deed record, and the cemetery records for the family show “Kineth”. This project will use the more commonly accepted spelling of Kineth.

<sup>20</sup> A Particular Friend, 53-54; George Albert Kellogg, A History of Whidbey's Island (Coupeville, WA: Island County Historical Society, 1961), 30.

<sup>21</sup> Historic Resource Study, 106.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 116.

acre. Samuel is of the opinion that the same land will yield forty bushels per acre next season. Our other crop which is principally vegetables is a very good crop amongst which we have near a hundred bushels of onions. They are worth about six dollars per bushel. It takes time to get the land subdued and the wild nature out of it... the land here is quite hard to get into cultivation. There is one plant on these plains that is very much in the way. That is fenon (bracken) [sic.]. I never have found it in any other country but this and the whole country is covered with it on the plains where I am now living. I would suppose its average height to be about three feet and in many places it is as thick as a hemp pack. There is such a bed of roots in the ground that it requires a very good plow and about four or five yoke of cattle and from the information that I have on the subject, I am inclined to the opinion that it will take three or four years to subdue it.”<sup>23</sup>

Colonel Crockett explained that the family planted fields and house gardens in April and May. They supplemented their diets with fruit, gathering strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, huckleberries, cranberries, and gooseberries in the fall. The Crocketts planted an orchard of apple, pear, peach, cherry, and plum trees; the apple seeds came with the family across the Oregon Trail.<sup>24</sup>

By November 1855, a growing threat from Native Indian populations prompted the families of Crockett and Smith Prairies to come together to protect themselves. The Crocketts were joined by the Kineths, Smiths, and Hancocks (other early settlers in the area) to build a fortification on Colonel Crockett’s DLC. In Historic Resource Study: Ebey’s Landing National Historic Reserve, the authors, Gail and Michael Evans-Hatch, explain that the families came together to erect,

“this hefty hewn log structure with a slightly overhanging second floor that had walls punctuated by gun apertures. When completed, these hipped-roof blockhouses stood at the corners of a stockade of logs, set upright and side-by-side in a filled-in ditch, rising to a height of about twelve feet above ground level. The stockade, occupying an area of about 40 x 60 feet, [sic.] enclosed a communal dwelling, blacksmith building, and a well.”<sup>25</sup>

The families stayed in the fortified area each night for four months, returning home during the day to farm. In 1856, the Kineth’s cabin at Snakelum Point was burned by Natives. The hostilities did not, however, stop John Kineth from having a barn raising, nor did they hinder Joseph Smith from acting as Oregon’s Speaker of House of Representatives in 1856, or District Attorney from 1857-59.<sup>26</sup>

In the late 1850s, Colonel Crockett’s farm produced 200 or more pounds of butter; in the 1860 United States Census, his farm was valued at more than \$5,000.00.<sup>27</sup> In 1869 Colonel Crockett died, leaving the farm in the hands of Walter Jr. who never married but stayed on the farm to care for his parents. Walter Jr. continued to farm the land and added 400 acres to the original DLC. He also invested in property in Seattle and Port Townsend, Washington, and served as County

---

<sup>23</sup> A Particular Friend, 24.

<sup>24</sup> Historic Resource Study, 107.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., 87, footnote 70. “One of the Crockett blockhouses was moved and exhibited at the 1909 Alaska-Yukon Pacific Exposition in Seattle, then later moved to Point Defiance Park in Tacoma, Washington.”

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., 55; A History of Whidbey’s Island, 49.

<sup>27</sup> Historic Resource Study, 114, 117.

Commissioner from 1867-72 and again from 1876-78. Mary Crockett died in 1885 at which time Walter Jr. inherited the DLC.<sup>28</sup>

In 1892 Walter Jr. was elected State Representative of Washington State. In 1895 he hired local builder, Howard B. Lovejoy, to construct a barn on the property. The barn was constructed as a Pennsylvania Bank Barn, a style of barn construction not common on the island, but popular in Virginia and Missouri where Walter Jr. spent his childhood.<sup>29</sup> Walter Jr. traveled extensively within the United States and Canada. Upon his death in 1903, his brother, Samuel, inherited part of his \$92,500 estate, leaving the remainder to be divided amongst John Crockett's ten children.<sup>30</sup>

The farm was purchased by Frederick Arthur and Nina F. Armstrong ca. 1910. Frederick farmed the land with his brother and Nina was an artist and avid gardener. For half a century the Armstrongs owned the Crockett farm.<sup>31</sup> Based on the buildings that remained on the farm after the Armstrongs quit it, the Armstrongs raised chicken in chicken houses and pens west of the Crockett house. They also raised pigs in a building west of the barn that was constructed with a thick concrete fire block to warm the animals.<sup>32</sup>

In 1938 the blockhouse that remained on the property from the 1855 fortification was restored by Works Progress Administration crews. That same year it was given to the Daughters of the Pioneers of Washington and moved from its original location to a section of land along South Fort Casey Road.<sup>33</sup> This allowed tourists easy access to the historic structure.<sup>34</sup>

Upon Frederick Armstrong's death in 1952, Nina maintained ownership of the land.<sup>35</sup> By June 1, 1973, eleven-and-one-half acres, including the house, barn, and adjoining buildings, were owned by Edgar A. Scholz.<sup>36</sup> Scholz and the North Coast Development Co. had plans to divide the land into small residential lots; the Crockett house was used as a rental property.<sup>37</sup> On April 1, 1984, the property was transferred into Irma R. Scholz's name. On October 1, 1984, it was purchased by Robert and Beulah Whitlow for \$115,000.00.<sup>38</sup> Soon after, the Whitlows bought two additional plots from Scholz, leaving them with just under forty acres.<sup>39</sup>

The Whitlows focused on renovating and restoring the Crockett house, which had fallen into disrepair during its years as a rental property. They converted the chicken house into storage space. They removed the piggery after it was damaged by a windstorm ca. 1986, and added new pressure tanks in the pump house, which sits south of the barn. The Whitlows ran The Colonel Crockett Farm Bed and Breakfast out of the house and leased the farmland to local farm

---

<sup>28</sup> A Particular Friend, 30, 143.

<sup>29</sup> Crockett Barn Event Center, *About Crockett Barn*, <http://www.crockettbarn.com/about.php> (Website Accessed 4 December 2008).

<sup>30</sup> A Particular Friend, 30.

<sup>31</sup> Robert and Beulah Whitlow, Unrecorded Phone Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 16 October 2008.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Historic Resource Study, 87 footnote 70.

<sup>34</sup> Whitlows, Unrecorded Phone Interview with Anne E. Kidd.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> *Parcel Summary Report*, Island County Assessors Office, Parcel Number R12115-220-2200,

Printed 2 May 2007.

<sup>37</sup> *Building and Landscape Inventory: Part C* (Seattle, WA: Cultural Resources Division, National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Summer 1983, reprinted in 1995), 325.

<sup>38</sup> *Parcel Summary Report*, Island County Assessors Office.

<sup>39</sup> Whitlows, Unrecorded Phone Interview with Anne E. Kidd.

families, including the Engles and Shermans,<sup>40</sup> who grew mostly hay for their dairies, but also alfalfa, field corn, and wheat.<sup>41</sup>

After working six years on the Crockett house, the Whitlows turned their attention to the barn in 1990. Family friend and carpenter, Glenn Adams, undertook the stabilization of the barn. His work was outlined by the Whitlows,

“Removed collapsed loafing shed on the east side  
 Removed old shingles, replaced 25% of rafters, 50% of skip [sheathing] on the east side  
 Replaced 2/3 of siding on the east side  
 Repaired all dry rot in the [sheathing] on the roof and exterior walls  
 Dismantled, repaired, and re-installed windows and louver panels in the cupola  
 Replaced 24" ends on all rafters as they cross the top “plate”  
 Replaced soffit and [fascia] boards as needed  
 Installed new cedar shake shingles on barn roof and cupola, (*pressure washed and treated, 2005*)  
 Removed, repaired, made new as needed, reglazed and re-installed 10 double-hung windows and 20 four-panel windows  
 Rebuilt and installed 6 rolling doors, added 2 new rails  
 Wired with 2 interior spot lights, electrical outlets, and 2 large fluorescent overhead lights (*wired with 15 fluorescent overhead lights in all areas and many additional outlets in 2002*) (*Installed new meter and service panel, and increased service to 100 amp in 2003*)  
 Replaced/repared 12"x12" beams under north and south barn doors  
 Repaired large holes in north and south stone foundation walls  
 Installed gutter system and down spouts on all four sides  
 Framed in and covered the interior hay-drop trap doors  
 Capped 3/4 of the hay floor with 2x8s to create a wood floor 4 inches thick, (*capped the other 1/4 of the hay floor with 2x8s, added a safety railing to the floored area above the tack room in 2002*)[this work was done by Robert Whitlow]  
 Replaced and braced properly two inside beams where 12' sections had been cut out  
 Built access ladder from hay floor to cupola  
 Replaced all damaged and missing siding  
 Wire brushed all exterior walls by hand, and hand brushed with solid stain, (*re-stained in 1997: pressure-washed, two coats of paint applied in 2005*)  
 Repaired and replaced corner boards on all four corners of the barn”<sup>42</sup>

Robert and Beulah stopped the Bed and Breakfast operation on September 30, 2003. That same year they sold twenty-nine acres of farmland to James Moore.<sup>43</sup> Two years later, on November 19, 2005, Paula Spina and the Crockett Farm LLC purchased eleven-and-one-half acres,

<sup>40</sup> The Engle Dairy was located at 144 South Fort Casey Road; The Sherman Dairy was located at 209 Ebey Road.

<sup>41</sup> Whitlows, Unrecorded Phone Interview with Anne E. Kidd.

<sup>42</sup> *Improvements*, Document Created by Robert and Beulah Whitlow to Aid with the Sale of the Crockett Property in 2005, 3.

<sup>43</sup> Whitlows, Unrecorded Phone Interview with Anne E. Kidd.



including the Crockett house, barn, and farm buildings, for \$900,000.00.<sup>44</sup> As of 2008, Paula runs the Crockett Barn Events Center, and uses the barn as a performing arts center and party venue. The Event Center's website touts "perfect parties in pastoral settings" and "a flexible, friendly performing arts venue." It also goes on to explain the following,

"The original timbers and elegant proportions of the barn's open, airy space create a rich setting for all types of private parties, including weddings, plays, homeowners' meetings, concerts, lectures, workshops, conferences, bar or bat mitzvahs, informal community gatherings and corporate events.

The main floor measures 50' X 75' creating ample room for guests to view presentations, meet in small groups, hear lectures or dance the night away. The Crockett Barn can accommodate up to 200 guests inside and features wooden tables with padded folding chairs.

A large dance floor provides hours of dancing fun. Disco lights available on request.

The surrounding fields provide an enchanted setting for elegant garden weddings, receptions and special occasions. The Victorian styled farmhouse provides a backdrop for stunning group photos. Dressing rooms are available. The upper field provides plenty of vehicle parking, though rideshare is encouraged to help preserve this pristine area.

As a performing arts center, Crockett Barn brings many exciting events to our Island community. Folk Groups, Art Shows, Theatrical Plays, Local Artists. The open layout of the barn provides for many diverse uses, accommodating most any staging request."<sup>45</sup>

Between 2006-07, a 70'-0" x 13'-0" stone patio was added off the lower level on the east end of the barn. Identical stones were used to pave the south ramp and to create steps from the ramp to grade. A workshop building was built south of the garage and a building that houses composting toilets was constructed south of the barn.<sup>46</sup>

## II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This barn is an excellent example of a unique construction style for agriculture buildings in Central Whidbey Island. Although extensive restoration work was done on the barn in 1990, it was performed with sensitivity to the historic fabric of the building.
2. Condition of fabric: Good. The barn is no longer used for agriculture and is currently in a clean, well-kept state.

---

<sup>44</sup> *Parcel Summary Report*, Island County Assessors Office.

<sup>45</sup> Crockett Barn Event Center, *Welcome to Crockett Barn*, <http://www.crockettbarn.com/> (Website Accessed 4 December 2008).

<sup>46</sup> Beulah Whitlow, Unrecorded Phone Interview with Anne E. Kidd, 10 December 2008.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: 75'-5" x 50'-5"
2. Foundations: The barn sits on a 1'-1" wide stone foundation wall that is embanked into the sloped landscape of the site.
3. Walls: The walls of the upper level and hayloft are supported by 8" square posts spaced every 18'-7-3/4" on center. Between the posts are 2" x 5-1/2" studs spaced on average 2'-0" on center. The walls are clad in 1" diagonal sheathing and 1" horizontal shiplap siding painted red.
4. Structural systems: The building has an exposed, mortise and tenon, heavy-timber, post and beam system. In the lower level two rows of 1' square posts sit on stone piers and support 1' square beams. The beams run the full length of the barn and are joined by one scarf joint. In the upper level, three interior bents of 8" square posts support collar beams that run the full length of the barn. Canted and braced queen posts<sup>47</sup> with wind bracing run from the collar beams to the roof purlins. The collar beams are additionally supported from below by diagonal braces connecting to the posts.
5. Porches, stoops: A 70'-0" x 13'-0" stone patio runs along the east façade of the barn. It is constructed of large (averaging 2'-0" x 3'-0"), flat, irregularly shaped stones with small round stones used as fillers. A 1'-0" wide and 2'-0" high stone retaining wall runs along the north and south of the patio and partially along the eastern edge.  
  
On the upper level, both the north and south entrances have 12'-0" wide entrance ramps. On the north side of the barn, the ramp is edged with 3" concrete curbing to its east and west. The ramp itself is covered in grass. Loose stone retaining walls run along the barn's foundation east and west of the ramp. On the south end of the barn, the ramp is paved in stones that match the patio on the east end of the barn. Three stone steps along the south façade of the barn give access from the ramp to grade.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The Crockett barn has three sets of paired sliding doors. On the east façade of the lower level, two identical doors

---

<sup>47</sup> Lisa J. Mroszczyk, *Barns of Mid-Maryland, Carroll County, MD, Frederick County, MD*, HABS Number MD-1275, [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs\\_haer/](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/) (Website Accessed 24 October 2008), 59-65.

open into the central aisle of the barn. The doors, mounted on the interior, are made of 1" vertical planks with 1" bracing on the interior. The door opening is trimmed with 1-1/4" x 8-1/8" boards on the exterior. The doors are painted red to match the barn.

The upper level has door openings on the north and south façades. The doors mounted on the exterior of the south façade are 6'-2-5/8" wide and constructed of the lap siding used as the exterior cladding of the barn. On the doors, the lap siding is mounted at a forty-five degree angle. On the interior, the doors are enforced by 5-1/8" x 1" vertical bracing boards. The sliding doors on the north end of the barn are identical to those on the south façade, except their exterior cladding is 1" plywood sheets. The openings have no trim; all four doors are painted red.

b. Windows:

The east end of the barn's lower level has a bank of window openings alternating with openings covered by shutters. The shutters are hinged to the window jambs. South of the double door opening are four two-over-two single sashes nailed into place that alternate with shutters constructed of 1-1/2" x 2'-1" horizontal boards enforced by two 1-1/2" x 4" vertical bracing boards. North of the door opening are six identical sashes alternating with six identical shutters.

On the east end of the north façade is a bank of three window openings. The opening to the west is covered in a two-over-two single sash, matching the ones on the east façade. Next are two three-over-three single sashes nailed into place. The east end of the south façade has four unevenly spaced matching two-over-two stationary sashes. All the sashes on the north, east, and south façades are painted red to match the barn. The window openings have 1" x 4" trim on the exterior. The trim is also painted red.

The west façade has two banks of windows; one opening into the tack room, the other into the cold storage room. Each bank has three evenly spaced two-over-two single sashes nailed into place. The window openings are trimmed in 1" x 5-1/2" boards on the exterior.

In the upper level, the Crockett barn has five window openings, each with matching four-over-four double-hung windows. The west façade has three window openings; the north and south façades each have one to the west of their double doors. All the openings are

trimmed in 4-3/4" x 1" boards on the exterior and have a 1-3/4" x 3'-6-3/4" sill. The sashes, trim, and sills are all painted red.

At the level of the hayloft are five window openings that align with the openings on the upper level. They have matching sashes, trim, and sills to those below.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The barn has a hipped roof covered in cedar shakes.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The roof has 4" fascia boards that are painted white and run the full cornice. Metal gutters on all four sides of the roof drain into the barn yard.
- c. Cupola: The barn has a rectangular cupola centrally located on the roof ridge. The cupola has a hipped roof covered in cedar shakes, matching the barn. It is clad in shiplap siding painted red with corner boards. On the north and south ends of the cupola are one-over-one double-hung windows. The east and west façades have matching one-over-one windows flanked by openings with thirteen horizontal louvers for ventilation. The window sashes, trim, louvers, and corner boards are all painted white.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

See measured drawings HABS No. WA-246-A for complete plans of this barn. The lower level of the barn is divided into spaces used by the farmer and spaces used by livestock. The west end of the barn is divided into two rooms: the tack room to the north and the cold storage room to the south. The cold storage room measures 37'-7-1/8" x 15'-7" and has an open floor plan. The tack room is 35'-3-1/2" x 15'-7-3/4". Its floor plan is open, except for the stairwell leading to the upper floor that cuts through the south end. The remaining space of the lower level is an open room measuring 73'-3-1/2" x 32'-1-1/2". Its east end was once divided into ten animal stalls, four to the south of the central aisle and six to the north of it. The walls and gates of the stalls have been removed. The floor remains textured indicating where the stalls once were.

The upper level has an open floor plan measuring 50'-1" x 75'-1". It was used as equipment storage and a hay mow. Stairs running down to the lower level and up to the loft cut the floor plan just north of center on the west end of the barn.

The loft is 37'-10-1/2" x 16'-10-1/2" and sits in the northwest corner of the barn. It has an open floor plan with stairs down to the haymow floor at the south end, and handrails lining the east and south edges.

2. Stairways:

The upper level is accessed by a stairwell between the tack room and cold storage room. The ten stairs are 3'-9-1/2" wide with a 1'-1" tread. Runners 3/4" wide flank the stairs, and a 1-3/8" diameter handrail runs along the south side of the stairs.

From the upper level to the loft is a set of a dozen stairs that are 3'-9-1/2" wide. They have 10-1/2" treads with 3/4" runners on either side. A 1-3/8" diameter handrail runs along the south side of the stairs.

3. Flooring:

The lower level of the barn has a poured concrete floor. On the east end the concrete floor is textured and sloped to provide traction and drainage for the livestock that was once kept there. The central aisle, running 20'-1-1/2" from the sliding doors to the row of posts, is paved in brick laid in a running bond.

The upper level of the barn has an early 7-1/4" wide plank floor that run north to south capped with a layer of 2x8 lumber flooring. In the loft, 5-1/2" wide planks run east to west.

4. Wall and ceiling finish:

The barn has three interior walls on the lower level. These stud walls are clad in lath and plaster and provide 4" spaces for extra insulation.

There is no finish on any of the walls or ceiling. The stone walls, posts, beams, joists, and rafters are all exposed.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways  
and doors:

The barn has three interior doors on the lower level: one to the tack room, one to the stairs leading to the upper level, and one to the cold storage room. The doors are 1" thick with 1" bracing on the back sides. The door opening to the cold storage room has 4" x 1" trim. The other two door openings have trim boards measuring 5-1/2" x 1".

D. Site:

1. Historic landscape design:

The Crockett property sits on Crockett Prairie overlooking Crockett Lake south of Coupeville. It is

accessed via two dirt access roads running south off Fort Casey Road. One access road runs in front the barn; the other terminates in front of the Crockett house, providing parking spaces. The property is bordered by hedgerows to the south and west, Fort Casey Road to the north, and the access road to the east.

The property consists of the Crockett house and barn and five outbuildings: a pump house, chicken coop, workshop, outhouse, and garage.

### III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

#### Bibliography

1. *Building and Landscape Inventory: Part C*. Seattle, WA: Cultural Resources Division, National Park Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Summer 1983, reprinted in 1995.
2. Cook, Jimmie Jean. A Particular Friend, Penn's Cove: A History of the Settlers, Claims and Buildings of Central Whidbey Island. Coupeville, WA: Island County Historical Society, 1973.
3. Crockett Barn Event Center. <http://www.crockettbarn.com/about.php>. Website Accessed 4 December 2008.
4. Evans-Hatch, Gail and Michael. Historic Resource Study. Seattle, WA: National Park Service, 2005.
5. *Improvements*. Document Created by Robert and Beulah Whitlow to Aid in the Sale of the Crockett Property in 2005.
6. Kellogg, George Albert. A History of Whidbey's Island. Coupeville, WA: Island County Historical Society, 1961.
7. Mroszczyk, Lisa J. *Barns of Mid-Maryland, Carroll County, MD, Frederick County, MD*. HABS Number MD-1275. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs\\_haer/](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/). Website Accessed 24 October 2008.
8. *Parcel Summary Report*. Island County Assessors Office. Parcel Number R12115-220-2200. Printed 2 May 2007.
9. Sheridan, Mimi. *How Coupeville Grew: A Short History of Town Development: Excerpts from the Town of Coupeville's Historic Preservation Plan* Coupeville, WA: McConnell/Burke, Inc., June 1998.
10. Spina, Paula. Unrecorded Phone Interview with Anne E. Kidd. 16 October 2008.
11. Sunnyside Cemetery, Island County Cemetery District No. 2. *Burial Listings*. <http://www.sunnysidecemetery.org/>. Website Accessed 15 May 2007.
12. White, Richard. Land Use, Environment, and Social Change: The Shaping of Island County, Washington. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1980.
13. Whitlow, Robert and Beulah. Unrecorded Phone Interview with Anne E. Kidd. 16 October 2008.
14. Whitlow, Beulah. Unrecorded Phone Interview with Anne E. Kidd. 10 December 2008.

### IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Crockett farm property was documented by Anne E. Kidd, candidate for Master of Science in Historic Preservation at the University of Oregon, (Kingston Heath, Director) during the 2006 and 2007 school years. The project was executed as a terminal project under the guidance of

Donald Peting, Professor Emeritus in Architecture at the University of Oregon; Hank Florence, National Park Service Historical Architect; Leland Roth, Professor of Art History at the University of Oregon; and Dan Powell, Professor of Art in Photography at the University of Oregon. The National Park Service and the Student Conservation Association sponsored the project. Anne E. Kidd performed the field recording, large format photography, and historical documentation. Karen L. Kidd assisted with the field recording. Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve and the community of Coupeville, Washington, provided additional support and assistance.